

Southern Plains Drought Outlook Summary

**Thursday, October 17, 2013
Issued: 1100 CDT**

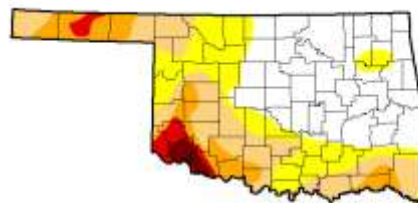
National Weather Service

***Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX***

Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma** Only 4% of state in extreme drought. Down from 95% on January 1st.
- New Mexico** Heavy monsoonal rains resulted in continued improvements with 3% of state in extreme drought as compared to 91% in early July..
- Texas** Recent heavy rains have lowered the amount of the state in extreme drought to less than 5%. This is the lowest since December 2010.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma



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Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D1	D2-D3	D4-D5	D6
Current	41.83	58.17	26.05	14.93	4.42
Last Week	22.78	71.30	43.81	35.12	8.43
3 Months Ago	25.92	74.08	58.05	36.10	36.28
Start of Calendar Year	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Start of Water Year	21.74	78.26	43.00	11.82	6.82
Start Year Ago	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Intensity
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Moderate Drought
 D2 Severe Drought
 D3 Extreme Drought
 D4 Exceptional Drought
 D5 Catastrophic Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on drought-scale conditions. For all conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for detailed statements.

Author:
Richard Tanker
CPNOM/WSN/CEP



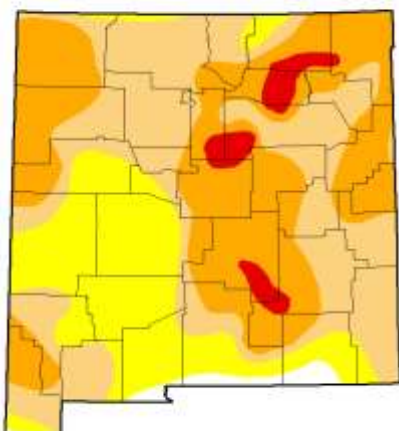
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

For Southern Plains Drought Monitor go to:
<http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home>

Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- New Mexico**: Despite near record September wetness, 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs remain at less than 15% of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, is at only 8.6% of capacity.
- Texas**: Statewide reservoir capacity has improved by over 1 percentage point since last month but is still near post 1990 lows for this time of year.
- Rio Grande**: Heavy rains in the basin have resulted in an increase of over 600,000 acre feet of combined storage in Falcon and Amistad Reservoirs.
- Oklahoma**: Lake Altus in southwest Oklahoma at less than 13% of capacity.

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



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Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D1	D2-D3	D4-D5	D6
Current	1.94	98.05	14.59	27.83	3.20
Last Week	1.87	98.13	18.92	21.81	3.38
3 Months Ago	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Start of Calendar Year	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Start of Water Year	1.96	98.04	13.82	21.81	3.38
Start Year Ago	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

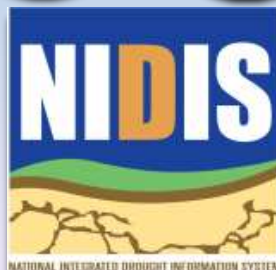
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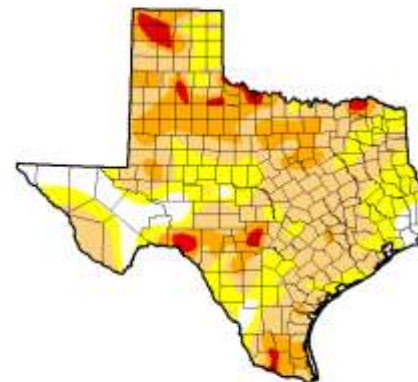
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U.S. Drought Monitor Texas



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Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D1	D2-D3	D4-D5	D6
Current	9.90	90.10	65.25	24.73	3.19
Last Week	9.80	90.20	19.47	25.41	4.91
3 Months Ago	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Start of Calendar Year	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Start of Water Year	9.82	90.18	19.05	25.00	4.00
Start Year Ago	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Intensity
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Moderate Drought
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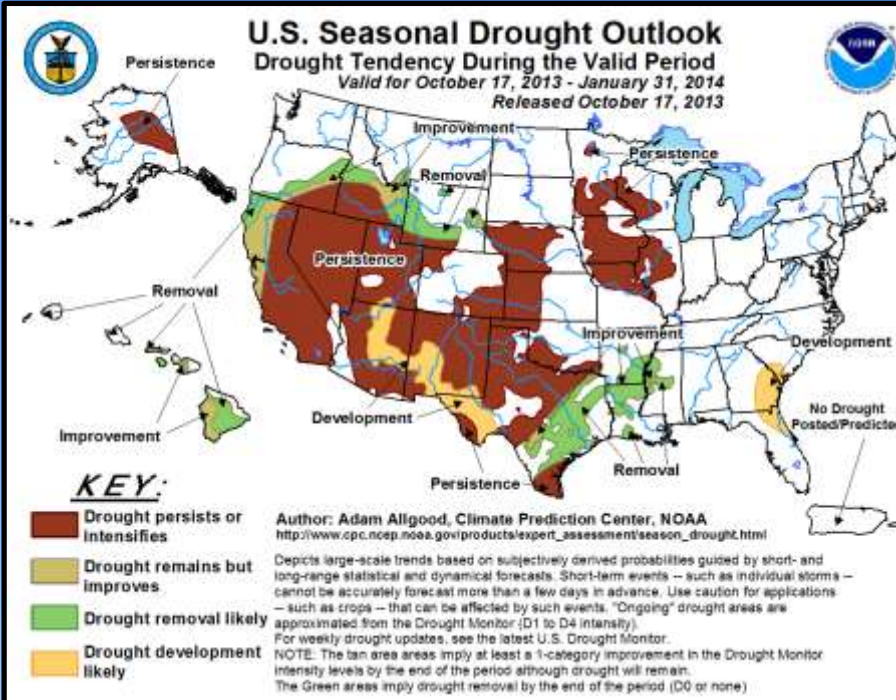
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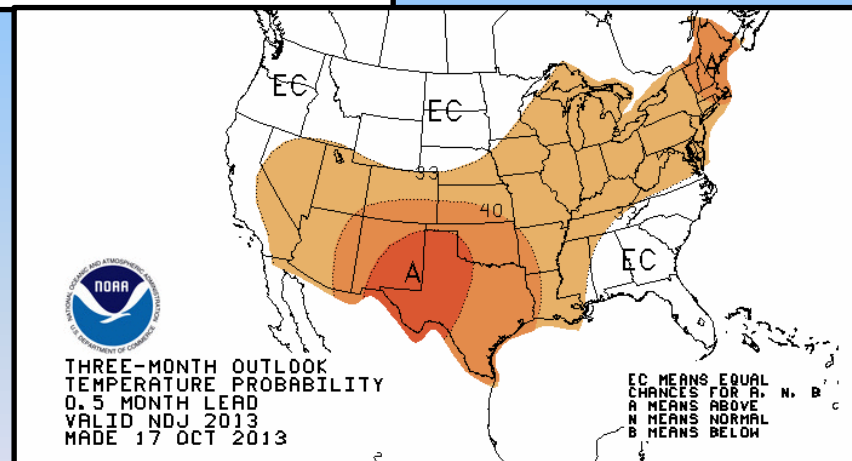
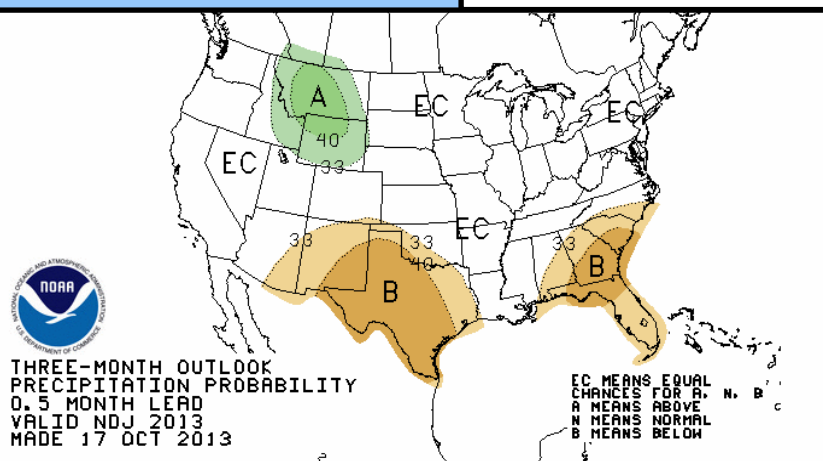
3-month Outlook Precipitation

- Increased chances for below normal precipitation expected for nearly all of TX, NM, and western OK.
- The beginning of the winter months generally see significant declines in average precipitation across all three states.
- Increasing threat of drought redevelopment across west TX and parts of NM.



3-month Outlook Temperature

- Increased chances for Above Normal Temperatures for all of NM, OK, and TX/
- High confidence forecast.
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures ... further exacerbating surface reservoir water deficits.



Southern Plains Drought Summary

- Drought improvement forecast across east TX and much of central TX.
- Drought forecast to redevelop across west TX and parts of NM that are currently drought free. Little change across remainder of NM, OK, and the TX panhandle.

Website: www.srh.noaa.gov

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Information provided by:
National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX



Phone: (817) 978-1100 x147
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov>

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This information along with other drought
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